

EPA-874

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To Phil North
cc
bcc
Subject Bristol Bay in the News March 6, 2012

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A report by the AP about state and federal agencies' frustrations with the Pebble Limited Partnership for not submitting requested material circulated widely last week. Energy & Environment News followed up with a similar piece analyzing the company's lack of transparency with agencies and agency officials' concerns about the project's potential environmental impacts. A biologist with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game wrote in a 2009 e-mail that Pebble's response to one document "...appears to give notice that they intend to do only the minimum legally required to gain the permits required to develop the mine and associated infrastructure." He added: "I personally find that to be disconcerting, given the 'WE WILL DO NO HARM' doctrine PLP has long preached in their [public relations] campaigns."

In New Mexico, the manager of a fly fish shop authors an op-ed in the *Santa Fe New Mexican*, "What happens in Bristol Bay will come our way." Toner Mitchell writes: "All told, opposition to this project is strong across income levels, ethnicities and political spectra. The reason for this near total opposition is simply that the Pebble Mine is a bad idea. The ore body in question is of extremely low grade, meaning that 99 percent of what is dug will be waste product that, through natural oxidation processes, will likely become acidic and will have to be stored on-site forever."

The *Juneau Empire* takes a strong stand in favor of giving the people of Alaska, via the legislature, more control over development of Pebble Mine. An editorial in the paper states: "We think the state of Alaska's elected representatives should have a strong say in any development that could affect the world's best fishing grounds. That's why we support Senate Bill 152, which gives the people we elect final say over whether a large mine – any large mine – situated only in that specific area will be safe enough to be allowed to receive permits."

The paper also covered a hearing on SB152, in which former state Senate President Rick Halford testified in favor of the bill noting that Pebble is the first mine he's ever opposed. Halford added that he believes whether to allow Pebble to dig will be the biggest decision in Western Alaska for the next hundred years.

And, a four-part series on the perils of Pebble Mine to Bristol Bay was published this week by photographer Carl Johnson, who is currently working on a book on the subject. An excerpt from the series reads: "Many question whether Pebble can responsibly develop the mine given that it has already [been caught violating](#) permit conditions at the exploration phase. Hard rock mining by its very nature is a boom-and-bust industry, wreaking havoc on regional economies and leaving behind a scarred, tainted landscape. The impact on water quality is [typically much worse](#) than that predicted by the mine developer."

For more information, go to www.SaveBristolBay.org

Shoren Brown

Bristol Bay Campaign Director

Tim Bristol

Trout Unlimited Alaska Director

What happens in Bristol Bay will come our way

Toner Mitchell, Reel Life Fly Shop

Santa Fe New Mexican

Covering nearly 54,000 square miles, Alaska's Bristol Bay region is home to the world's largest runs of sockeye salmon. The commercial fishery employs more than 12,000 people and generates nearly \$500 million in annual revenue. This is the modern version of an economy from which Alaska Natives... [Click here to read more](#)

Empire editorial: Alaska must take control of Bristol Bay development

Juneau Empire

A healthy balance is needed in all things. Alaska needs oil exploration, mining and natural gas extraction, and the world needs our products. America also needs the useful minerals that exist in many regions of Alaska, including the proposed Pebble Mine...

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Documents show regulators' frustration with Pebble project

Manuel Quinones

E&E Greenwire

Some government regulators working on the massive Pebble gold and copper mine in Alaska expressed frustration about the company's lack of transparency and voiced concern about the project's potential environmental impacts, according to newly released documents... [Click here to read more](#)

Concerns raised about Pebble mine study process

Becky Bohrer

Juneau Empire, KTUU, San Antonio Express News

The group behind a massive copper and gold prospect near a world premier salmon fishery has released what has been billed as "one of the most exhaustive environmental study programs in the history of U.S. mineral development"... [Click here to read more](#)

Pebble Mine Project Releases 30,000 Pages of Scientific Study

Lauren Maxwell

KTVB

People pushing for the Pebble Mine Project said they are living up to a promise to make their plans public. The Pebble Partnership has released close to 30,000 pages of scientific study and put the information online... [Click here to read more](#)

Bristol Bay Mines bill hits Senate committee

Russell Stigall

Juneau Empire

A bill adding legislative oversight to the process of permitting sulfide mines in the Bristol Bay Fisheries Refuge had its first hearing in Senate Commerce and Regional Affairs Committee on Tuesday... [Click here to read more](#)

Where Water is Gold: Bristol Bay and Pebble Mine (Part 2 of 4) Along Came a Pebble

Carl Johnson

The Mudflats

Thirty-two years after the Alaska Constitutional Convention concluded, Teck Cominco, a Canadian mining company, using the name Cominco Alaska Exploration, filed its first Alaska Placer Mining Application, a document filed with the Alaska Department of Natural Resources to receive permission to, among other things, conduct exploratory drilling on mineral claims in order to identify the nature and quality of the mineral deposit... [Click here to read more](#)

Where Water is Gold: Bristol Bay and Pebble Mine (Part 3 of 4)

Carl Johnson

The Mudflats

The Bristol Bay Native Corporation, the regional corporation formed under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to serve the Native residents of the region, has adopted a proposal in opposition to the mine. In addition, 81% of its shareholders are against development of the mine... [Click here to read more](#)

Where Water is Gold Part 4

Carl Johnson

Carl Johnson Photography

What is it about the Bristol Bay region, its history and its people that has led to such an opposition to development of the Pebble Mine? For most people, though, the answer to this question is spread out among a tangling web of websites, articles, opinion pieces, editorials, and smothered by the drowning deluge of angry, bitter commercials... [Click here to read more](#)